REMARKS

This reply is in response to the Office Action of January 6, 2009. No claims have been amended or added. Claims 1 – 22, 25 – 36, and 39 are pending in the application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's participation in the telephonic interview on March 10, 2009 in which the presently pending claims were discussed with respect to the Lee reference.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC §102

Claims 1 – 5, 11 – 16, 22, 25 – 30, 36 and 39 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,557,447 to Lee (hereinafter, the Lee reference). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Lee reference does not include a cover assembly, as that term is described in the instant specification (as noted above, the Office Action does not specifically note which element of the Lee reference is considered the cover assembly) and that the pointer 80 (referenced in the Office Action as the index indicator of the present invention) of the Lee reference (one of the few elements the Office Action specifically notes) is coupled via a pin at a projected point 64 to the support portion 62. Clearly, the pointer 80 is not coupled to anything that can be reasonably considered a cover assembly.

With regard to "the cam assembly applying a force to the tension spring assembly" feature of the independent claims, Applicants respectfully disagree that the Lee reference teaches or suggests such a feature. Further to Applicants remarks set forth in the previous reply, the cam assembly (as defined in the Office Action to include elements 30, 34, 35, 33 and 32) of the Lee reference does not apply a force to the spring assembly (as defined in the Office Action to include elements 70, 60/61, and 40). Contrary to this position, it is the force of gravity acting on the driven wheel 17, the slide seat 20, first elastic member 50, and the seat block 40 which acts to compress the spring 63.

Contrary to the present invention, "The eccentric wheel 30 is capable of deflection between a first angle position and a second angle position. As shown in FIG.

3, when it is at the first angle position the long diameter portion 34 urges upward the press portion 22 of the slide seat 20, so as to push upwards the slide seat 20 to an upper stop point. When the eccentric wheel 30 is at the second angle position, as shown in FIG. 5, the short diameter potion 35 comes in contact with the press portion 26. **The slide seat 20 is caused by its own weight to descend to a lower stop point**." Lee at Col. 2, ll. 39-48. When the cam member 30 is in the first position (shown in Figure 3) it forces the cross rod 22 upward which in turn forces the slide seat 20 upwards (working against the force of gravity). This in turn lifts the "first elastic member 50 . . . held between the top of the seat block 40 and the stop plate 25 of the slide seat 20." Col. 3, line 1. This in turn allows the compressed spring 63 to push the seat block 40 upwards and therein tighten the saw blade.

As noted above, in the second position (shown in Figure 5), the cam member 30 allows the force of gravity to force the slide seat 20 downward and in turn apply a force to the spring 63. It is clearly not the cam assembly that applies the force to the spring assembly.

The device disclosed in the Lee reference does not disclose, teach or suggest a cam assembly for applying a force to a tension spring assembly, as recited in the independent claims of the present application. In fact, the Lee reference discloses just the opposite. Specifically, operationally when the wrenching member 36 of the Lee device is turned counterclockwise from the position in Figure 3 to the position in Figure 5, the distance between the lower surface 26 of the cross rod 22 and the axis of the wheel 30 is decreased allowing the slide seat 20 to move downwardly. As gravity forces the slide seat 20 (which is, according to the Office Action, not part of the cam assembly) to move downwardly compressing the spring 70. The slide seat 20 moves downwardly due to its own weight (gravity applied to the slide seat's mass).

Contrary to the present invention and the position taken in the Office Action, when the wrenching member 36 is moved clockwise (from the position in Figure 5 to the position in Figure 3) the eccentric wheel 30 forces the rod 22 and the slide seat 20 upwards counteracting the force of gravity on the slide seat thereby decreasing the force applied to the spring 70.

Clearly, the Lee reference does not disclose a cam assembly for applying a force to a tension spring. To the contrary, the eccentric wheel serves to decrease force applied to the spring 70.

To the examiner's comment in the Advisory Action of April 24, 2007, "Since the Lee spring is a tension spring, it urges the related components, including the cam, in a direction. Newton's third law of motion states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. As such, the cam also applies a force to the spring." This is not quite accurate. The spring 63 engages the seat block 40 which engages the elastic member 50 which is attached to the slide seat 20 which is attached to the cross bar 22. None of these elements presses or engages the eccentric wheel. It would be a different matter if the eccentric wheel was above the cross bar 22, but it is not. The energy in the spring is not in any way transferred to the eccentric wheel and therefore the eccentric wheel can not apply a responsive force.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Lee reference does not disclose, teach or suggest a cam assembly applying a force to a tension spring assembly or a cover assembly adjustably coupled with the cam assembly, as recited in independent claims 1, 12 and 26. As such, the Lee reference can not anticipate these claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the various rejections and allow all of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this reply is respectfully requested. If the Examiner decides to maintain the current rejection, Applicants request a personal interview between the Examiner and the Applicants representative noted below. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (410) 716-3689.

Respectfully submitted,

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